

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are now pending. Support for the amendments and the added claims will be discussed below.

The independent Claims 1 and 4 are limited to a technique and an embodiment that do not simply cover two operations of the same basic game with a different award criteria for each game. The claims are intended to cover two different games played using the same hardware in the slot machine. Examples of this are shown with respect to FIG. 9, which uses the same circuitry for displaying the two games played by the slot machines shown in FIGS. 6-8. These are not simply the same games being played twice but using different award criteria.

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1 and 4 in view of the combination of Okada (Patent No. 4,508,345) and Manship (Patent No. 5, 393,061). Okada teaches spinning a set of reels in a first game having a first award criteria and then spinning the same reels again as a bonus game. Both games are the same, using the same indicia. Manship was simply cited for its teaching of a video display. Applicants agree that the combination of Manship and Okada would result in a video machine performing the Okada games but using video reels rather than mechanical reels.

Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 4 to preclude covering this combination. In Okada, the same indicia (symbols on reels) are used in both games. In Applicants' amended Claims 1 and 4, a first game result is achieved "by displaying a combination randomly selected from first indicia," and a bonus game result is achieved by displaying "second indicia." This is a vastly different concept from simply performing the same game twice, as is performed by Okada.

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Examples of first indicia and second indicia are presented in added Claims 7-16. These claims are supported throughout the specification. Page 20 of the specification describes FIG. 9 and indicates that the various main games and bonus games described throughout the specification may be displayed on a single video screen using the exact same hardware for both the main game and the bonus game.

Claims 7 and 12 recite that the first indicia represents playing cards. This is supported on page 19, lines 29-32. Claims 8 and 13 recite that the first indicia are symbols on a video reel. This is supported on page 17, lines 21-26. The remainder of the added claims are supported in the specification and are shown in FIGS. 6-8.

The differences between the claims and the combination of Okada and Manship are significant in that playing two different games using two different indicia is a concept very different from repeating one game twice, as taught by Okada. The combination of Okada and Manship certainly cannot suggest this different concept.

Additionally, the use of the exact same hardware for both games greatly increases the value of the invention for a number of reasons. Firstly, only the software program for each of the games differs, and the same hardware may be used to carry out the software. Such software is very inexpensive as compared to the hardware. In contrast, having a separate display for the bonus game result, as described in, for example, U. S. Patent No. 5,393,057 to Marnell, adds considerable expense to the slot machine and essentially fixes the functionality of the slot machine.

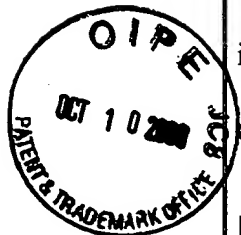
In the field of slot machines, improvements which add value, such as the creation of added income, or results in a more efficient/cheaper slot machine, have been a criteria for

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patentability. As such, these features in Applicants' claims are extremely significant and cannot be ignored.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next action is other than a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' attorney at (408) 453-9200.



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